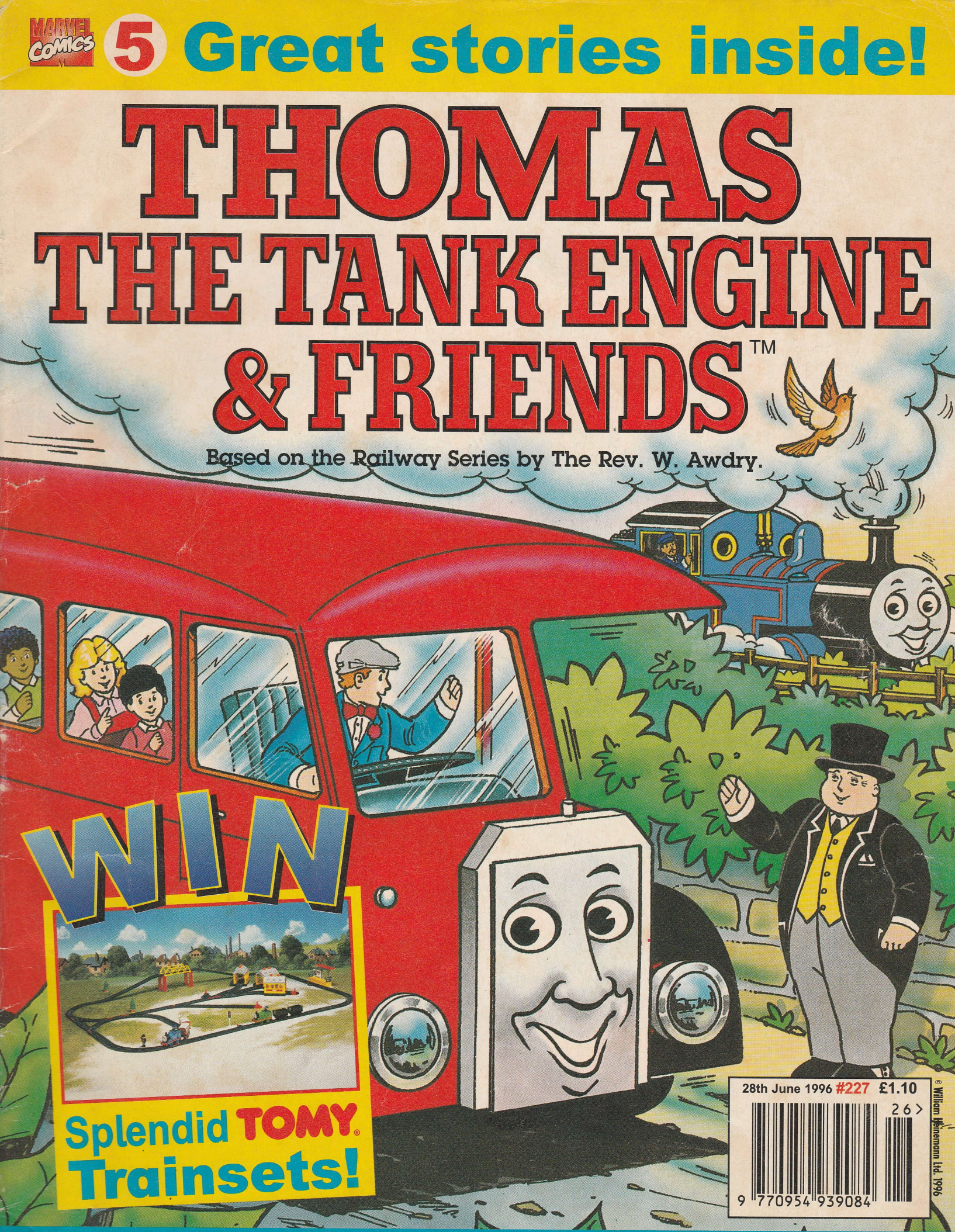
MARVEL COMICS

5 Great stories inside!

# THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



WIN



Splendid TOMY® Trainsets!

28th June 1996 #227 £1.10

26

9 770954 939084

© William Heinemann Ltd. 1996

Colouring, puzzles and engine fun!

# Hello, everybody!

## In this issue....


3 The outing!

8 All about duck!

10 Up and down!

12 Sticky business!

16 Spot the difference!

18 Special sandcastle!

21 True or false!

22 Photo album: Mavis

23 Join the dots!

24 Sporting engine!

28 Mail train!

30 Competition!




Island of Sodor Railway

This comic belongs to

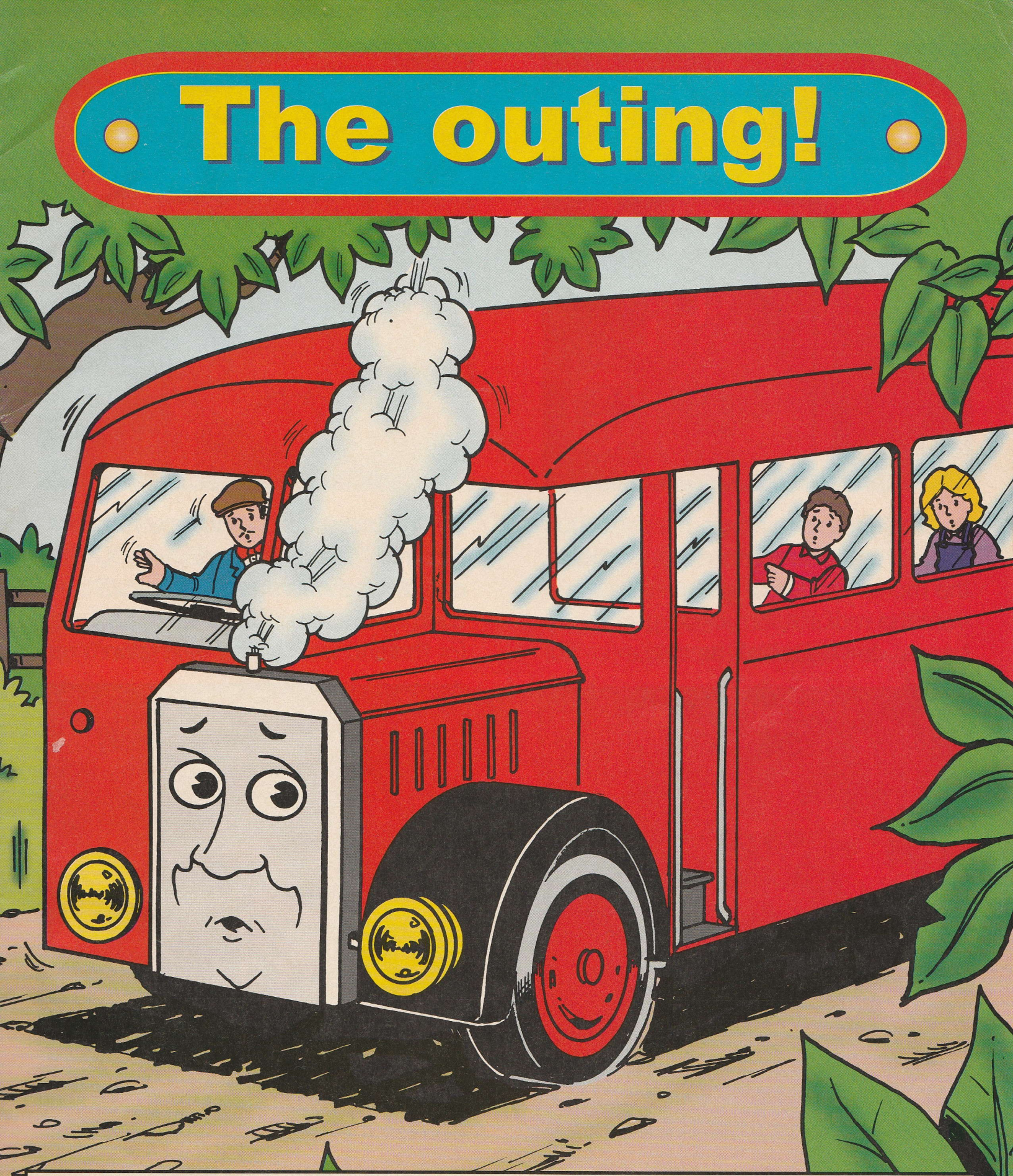
.....


THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by MARVEL COMICS, a division of PANINI UK LTD. Managing Director: Richard Maskell; Managing Editor: Alan O'Keefe; Editorial team: Catherine Ard & Karen Brown; Project Leader: Ciara Mulvany; Art Director: Helen Nally; Designer: Steve Rawlinson; Production: Mark Irvine, Andy Parslow. Office of Publication: Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ.


All 'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS' material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd. exclusively worldwide. 'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS' is a trademark of Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

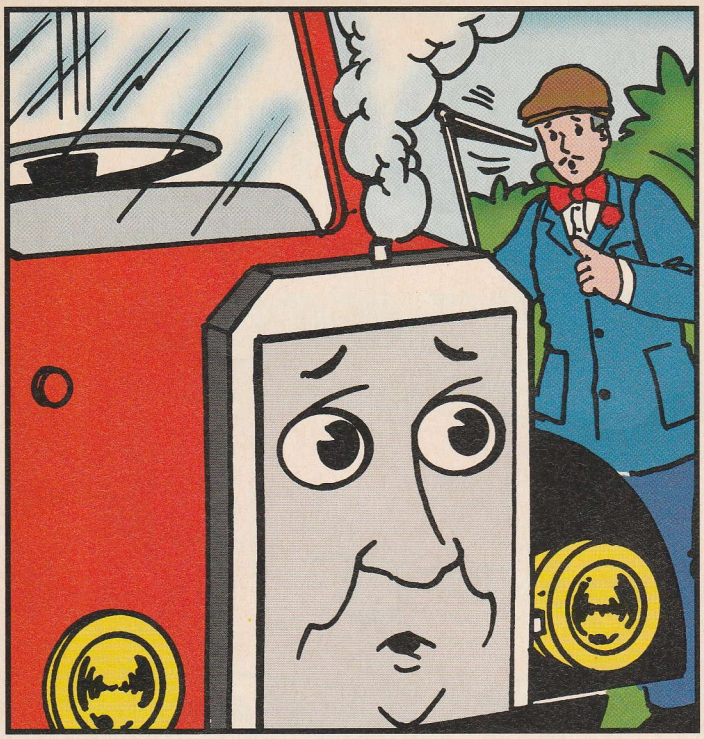

Printed in the UK. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, LONDON W1P 0AU. Tel. 0171 261 5555. ISSN 0954-9390.

# The outing!

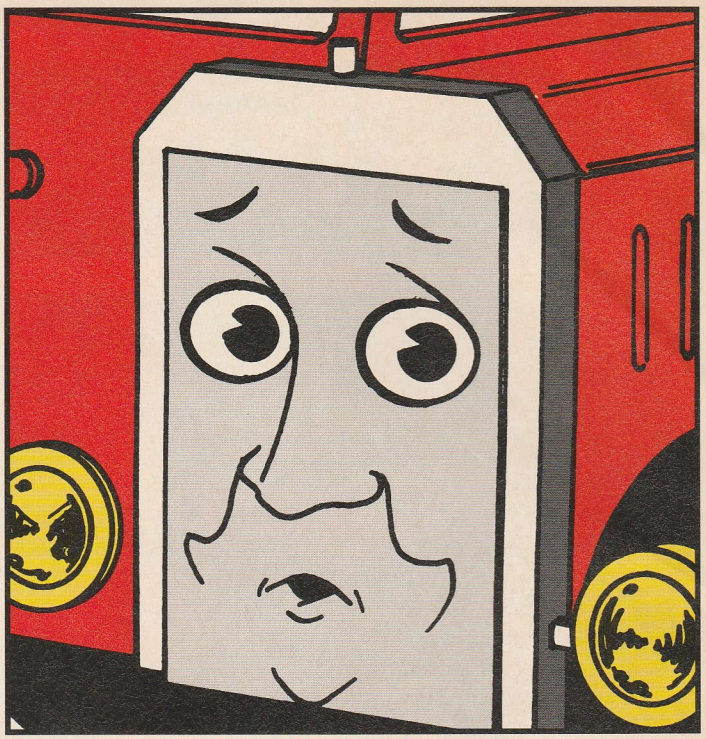


1. It was a warm, cloudless day on the Island of Sodor and the sun shone brightly. Bertie the bus drove through the countryside. At last, tall trees by the road gave him some shade.

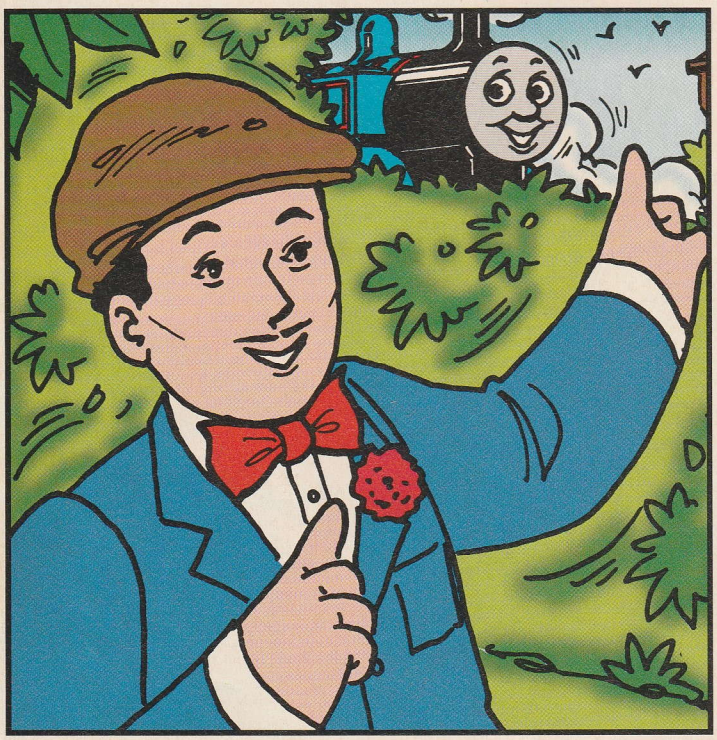
2. There was hardly any other traffic . "I think everyone has gone to the seaside!" smiled Bertie. Next moment, he heard a strange noise from his motor. Then it stopped altogether.



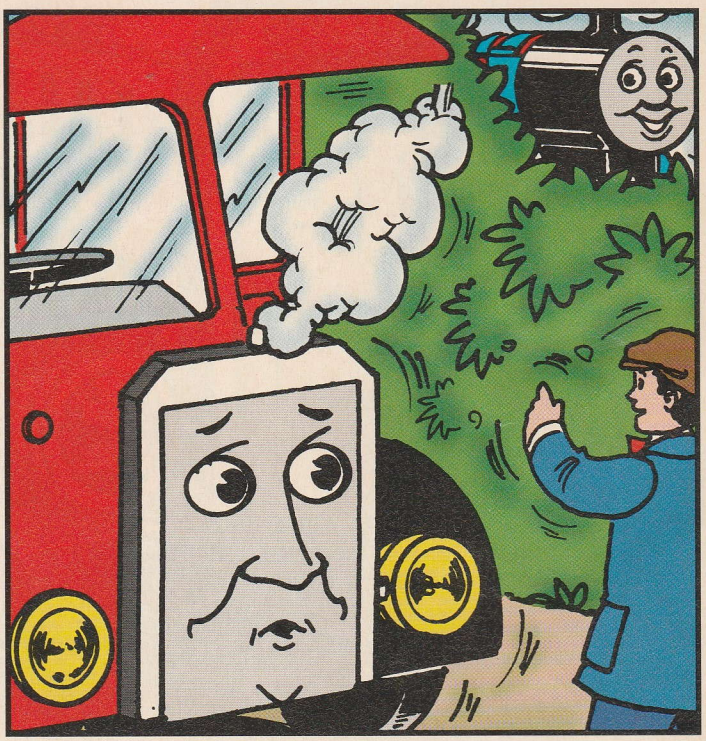
3. Bertie rolled to a halt. He could not move. His driver climbed out to check the motor. Clouds of steam hissed from the radiator. "I'm afraid you've broken down, Bertie!" he said.



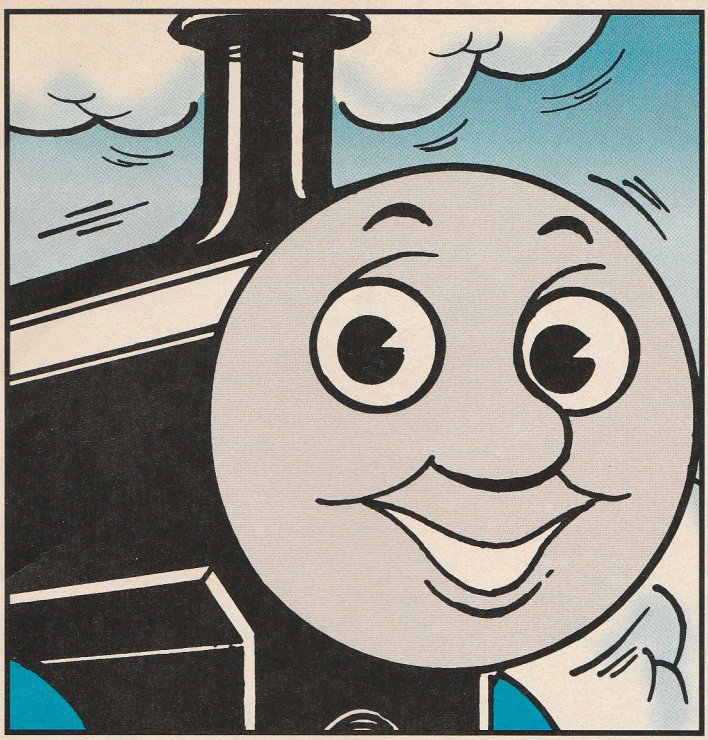
4. "You can't go on until you've been repaired," the driver explained. "Oh, no! What about my passengers?" cried Bertie, anxiously. "It's a long way for them to walk to the next town."



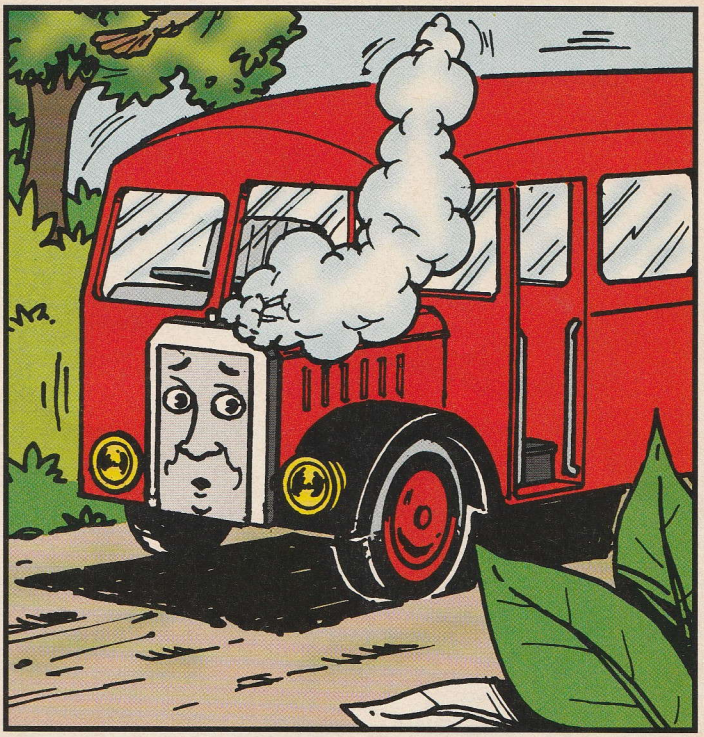
5. "But not the railway station," replied his driver. He pointed to it, across the road. Next moment, there was a huff-puff-puffing and Thomas arrived, pulling Annie and Clarabel.



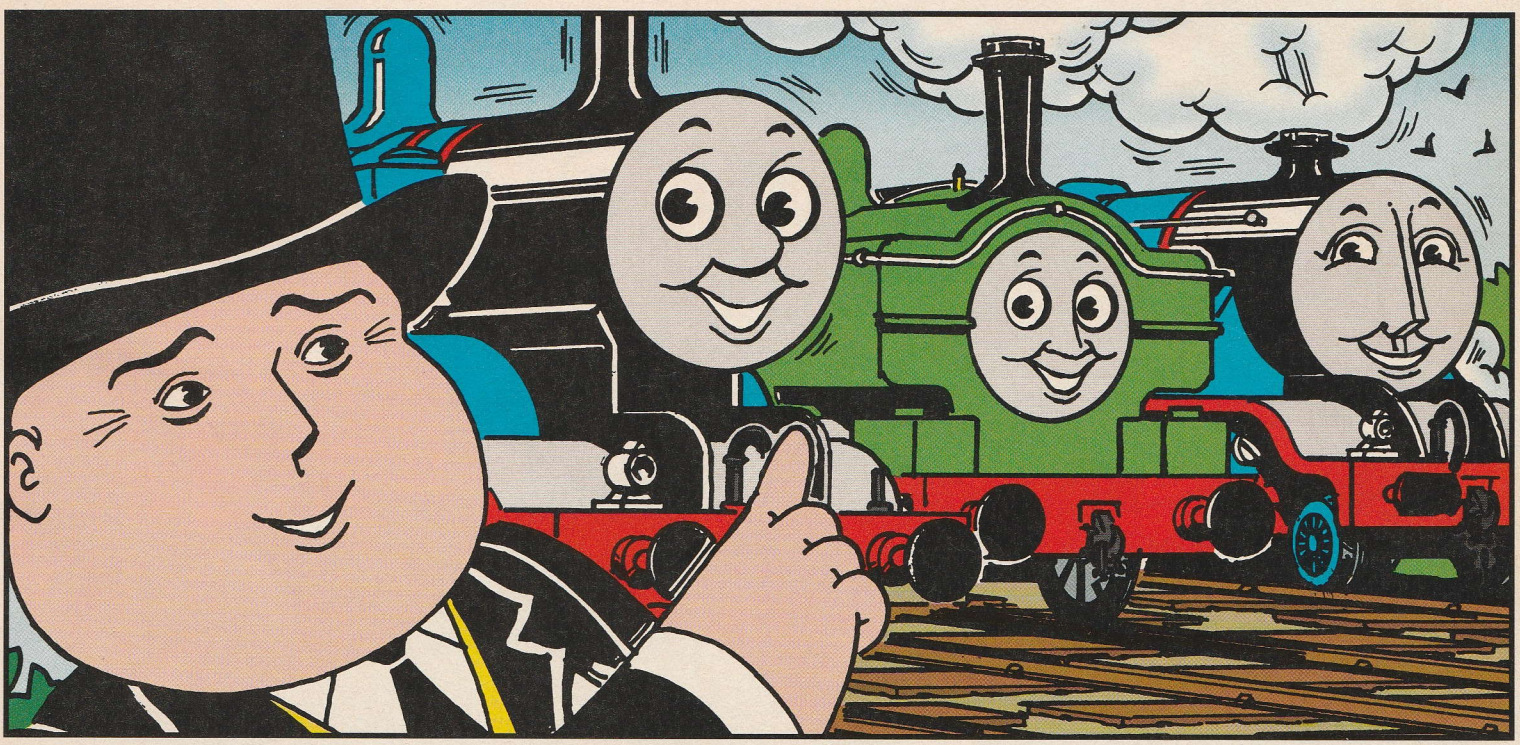
6. As he pulled up at the station, Thomas spotted the bus. "Peep! Peep! Hello, Bertie!" he whistled. "What a hot day!" "You can say that again," grumbled Bertie. "I've overheated!"



7. His driver hurried to the station and arranged for Thomas to carry all Bertie's passengers too. "Leave it to me, Bertie," teased Thomas. "Engines are much more useful than buses!"



8. Bertie's driver also went, to fetch help form the bus depot. "See! Even bus drivers go by train!" added Thomas, cheekily. Bertie fumed. He felt more hot and bothered than ever.



9. A few days later, after Bertie was repaired, the Fat Controller spoke to the engine crews. "I have arranged a staff outing for you all. You can go on a picnic, anywhere you choose!"

10. The Fat Controller had arranged for relief crews from the mainland railway to drive his engines that day. "I wonder which of us will pull the Outing Special," said Duck, excitedly.

11. "Me, of course!" snorted Gordon, importantly. "After all, I do pull the Express!" "But I'm so modern," sniffed Daisy. "And I'm so smart, I'm sure it will be me." hissed James.

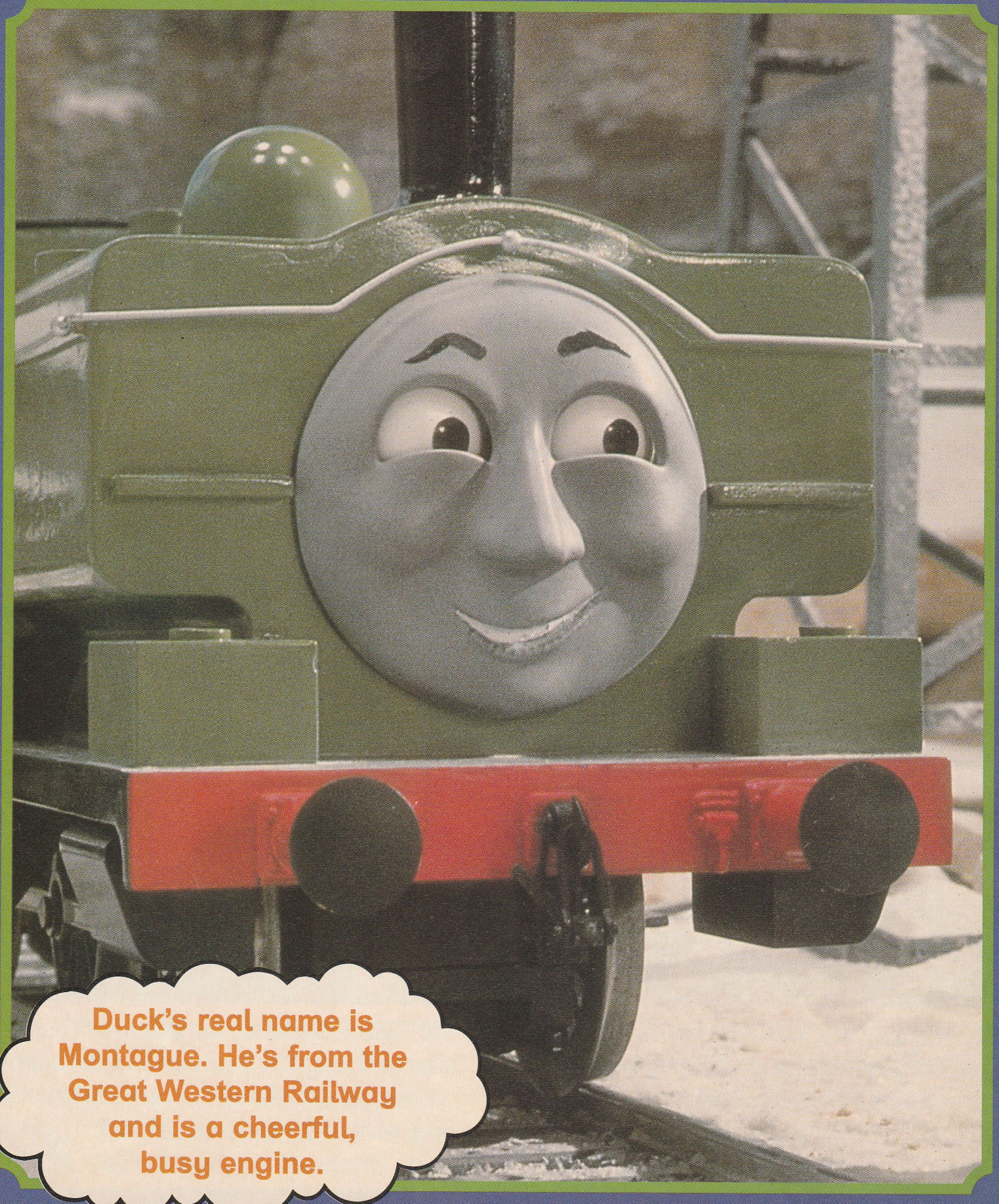
12. The Fat Controller overheard them arguing. "It's up to the drivers to pick who takes them," he said. The engines could hardly wait to find out who it would be.

13. Next moment, Bertie pulled up at the bus stop and the engine drivers climbed aboard. They took a big picnic hamper with them. The engines stared in amazement.

14. The Fat Controller smiled. "Your drivers thought a bus ride would make a change, so I hired Bertie!" "Even engine drivers know buses are best, Thomas!" laughed Bertie.

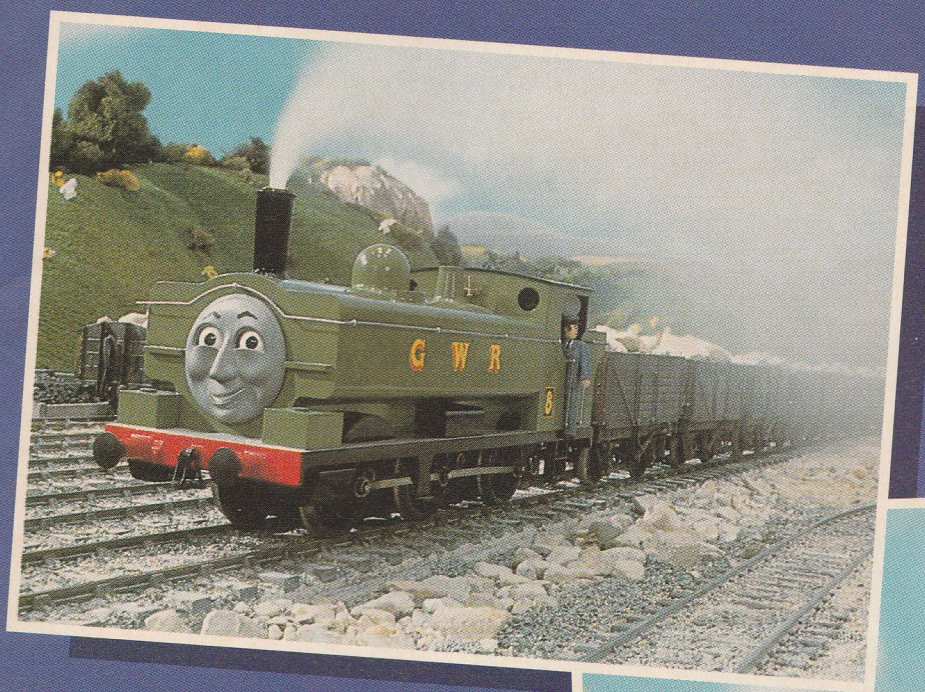
PEEP! PEEP! THE END!

# All abou

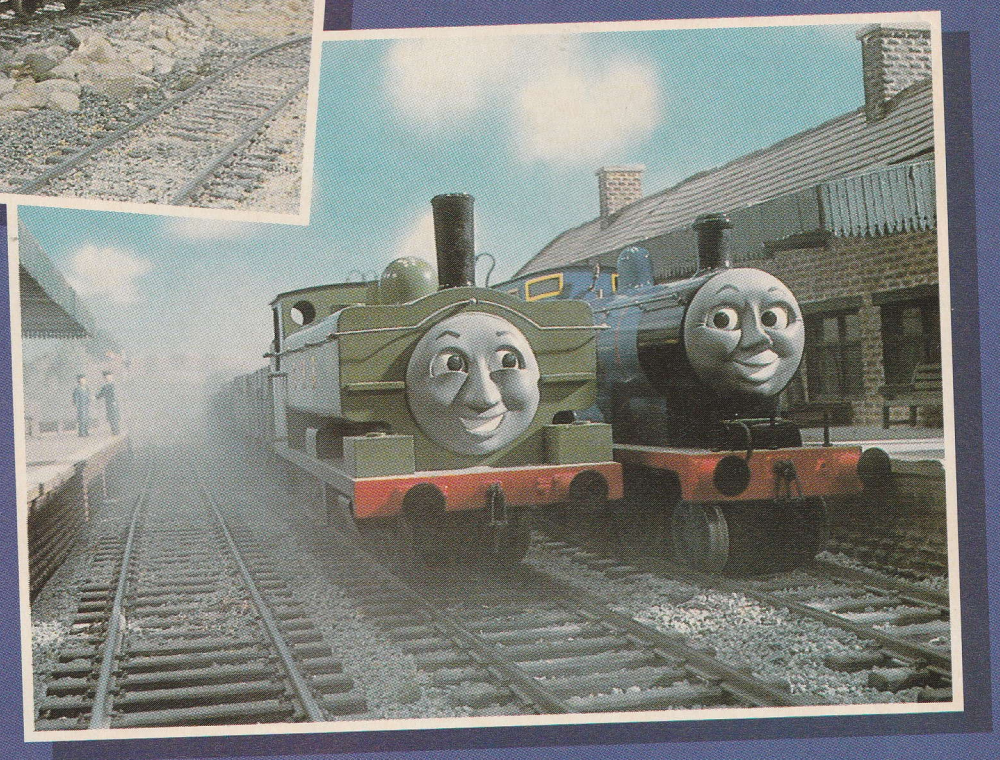


Duck's real name is Montague. He's from the Great Western Railway and is a cheerful, busy engine.

# ıt Duck!



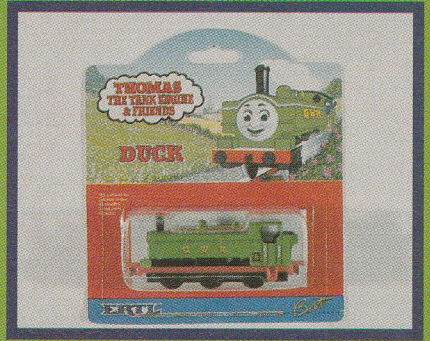

Duck is a Really Useful engine. Sometimes he pulls coaches and sometimes he pushes troublesome trucks.



Even though he is small, he won't allow the larger engines to boss him around!

## Win a model Duck!

Five lucky winners will win a splendid model Duck from the ERTL engine range! Just send a post card, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/Duck model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ. Closing date: July 6th 1996. The first five names out of our postbag after the closing date will win their very own Duck!



# Up and down!

One day, Thomas took a party of climbers on his branch line. They wore special boots and clothing. They carried ropes, too. Thomas took the climbers to a station in the country.

Later, when he steamed past, Thomas could see the climbers in the distance. They were high up on a steep, rocky peak. "I hope they are being very careful," he said. "Don't worry, Thomas," called his driver. "They are experts. They know just what to do." "Climbing looks really exciting," thought Thomas.

The climbers met Thomas's last train of the day. When they

were all aboard, he took them home again.

A week later, Thomas had to carry the Fat Controller and the Chief Engineer up an old hill line that had been closed for many years. "I am thinking of opening it up for tourists," said the Fat Controller. "From the top, there is a fine view across the Island of Sodor."

The line was very steep. "Gordon is the strongest engine," the Fat Controller went on. "But he is too big to use on this line."

"You can rely on me, sir," said Thomas.

His fireman shovelled extra coal into the firebox so Thomas could get up a good head of steam. Then he puffed on his way. When Thomas saw the hill line, he was shocked.

"It's even higher than I first thought!" he gasped.

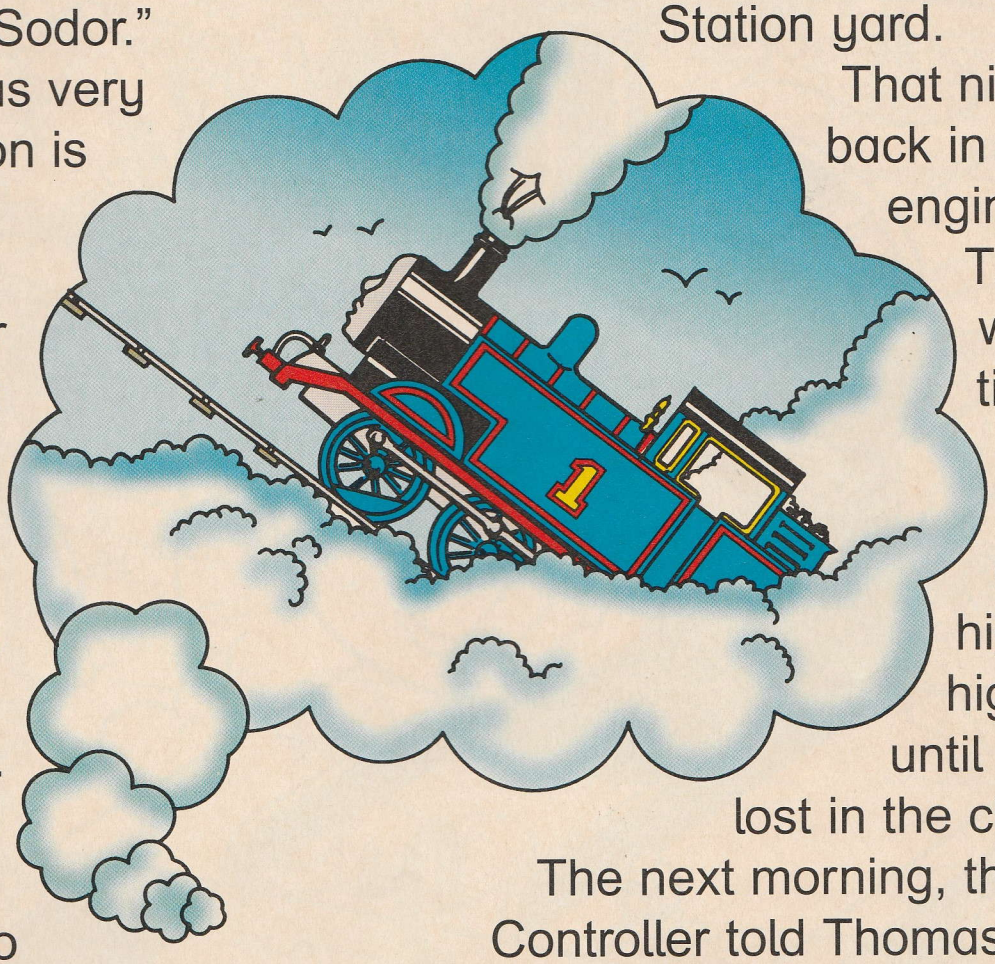
Thomas slowly began to climb. He huffed and puffed until he thought his boiler would burst. Thomas's wheels kept slipping, too. But he would not give up. At last, Thomas reached the top.

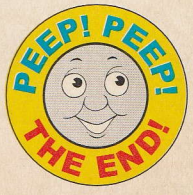
He felt the wind blowing. It was a long way down again. Thomas hardly dared to look. He was very pleased when he finally returned to the Main Station yard.

That night, back in the engine shed, Thomas was very tired. He dreamed he was climbing higher and higher, until he was lost in the clouds.

The next morning, the Fat Controller told Thomas that the line would not be opening after all. "It needs too many repairs," he explained.

Thomas was relieved. "I'm glad," he told his driver. "Climbing may look exciting, but it's really hard work. Being so high up made me feel dizzy!"



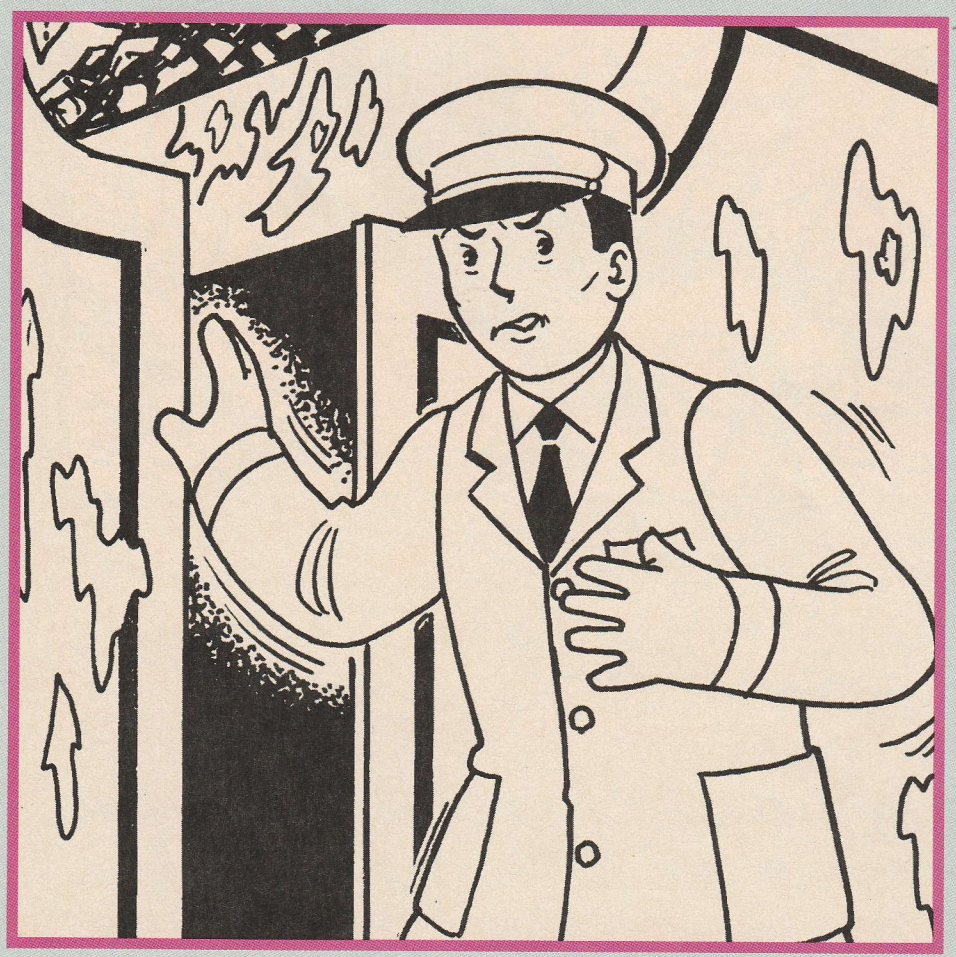
A read & colour story

# Sticky Business!

1 It was a very hot June day. James was taking lots of holiday-makers to the beach. As he waited at a station for the passengers to climb on board he noticed that they were wearing special clothes to protect them from the sun. Mothers and babies had sun hats on, children had baseball caps and sunglasses. One old lady was holding a parasol to shade her from the sun. James felt the sun beating down on his tanks and he wished that he could cool down in the shade for a while.

2 After a hard morning's work, James' driver pulled into a siding near the beach. "I'm going to have a quick swim to cool down before I have my sandwiches," he said. "Just stay there until I come back," he called as he walked down to the bay.

3 "Pah, everyone finds a way to keep cool except me!" thought James crossly. He noticed a group of trees nearby. Their leafy branches were making a lovely patch of shade on the track. James jerked his break off and rolled slowly forwards until he was in the shade. "My driver won't even notice!" he chuckled to himself.



4 After a while, James' driver returned and started to climb into the cab. "Yuk! What a mess!" he cried, wiping his hands on his uniform. James was covered in sticky stuff. "I thought I told you not to move," his driver said crossly. "At this time of year lime trees make lots of sticky sap which drips off the leaves. Your paintwork is covered in it!"

5 James rolled back to the Station Yard in disgrace. The sap in his joints made it difficult to move. When the Fat Controller saw James, he was very cross. "You must learn to do as you are told," he said sternly. "We must get you cleaned up." James' fireman set to work washing and scrubbing. The other engines laughed when they heard what had happened. James didn't mind because he had a lovely cool shower. When the fireman had finished, his red paint was brighter and shinier than ever!

**The end**

# Spot the d

These two pictures look the same, but there are some tiny differences between them! Can you

# ifference!

spot the five changes? When you have found them all, colour in the pictures!

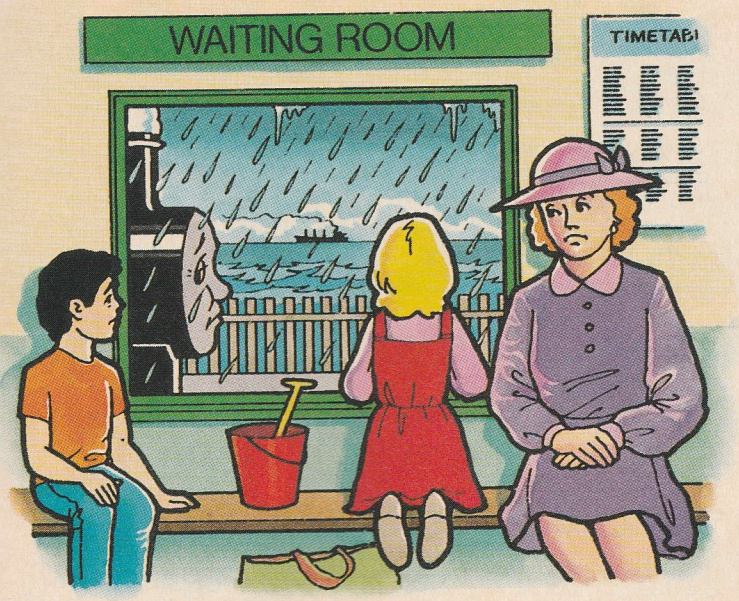
# SPECIAL SANDCASTLE

One sunny afternoon, Lady Hatt decided to take Stephen and Bridget to the beach. The children were very excited as they were going to travel aboard Thomas on the Seaside Special.

When they arrived, they hurried on to the beach with their bucket and spades. The children waved to Thomas, "See you later!" "Peep! Peep!" he whistled.

Stephen and Bridget changed into their swimming costumes. They were having a wonderful time. Soon they had built a splendid sandcastle. All of a sudden, a ball came flying over, landing right on top of their castle! "Oh no," cried Stephen, "We'll have to start all over again!"

As soon as they had made another sandcastle, it was washed away by a big wave. SPLOSSSH! "Not again!" frowned Bridget. "We'll never be



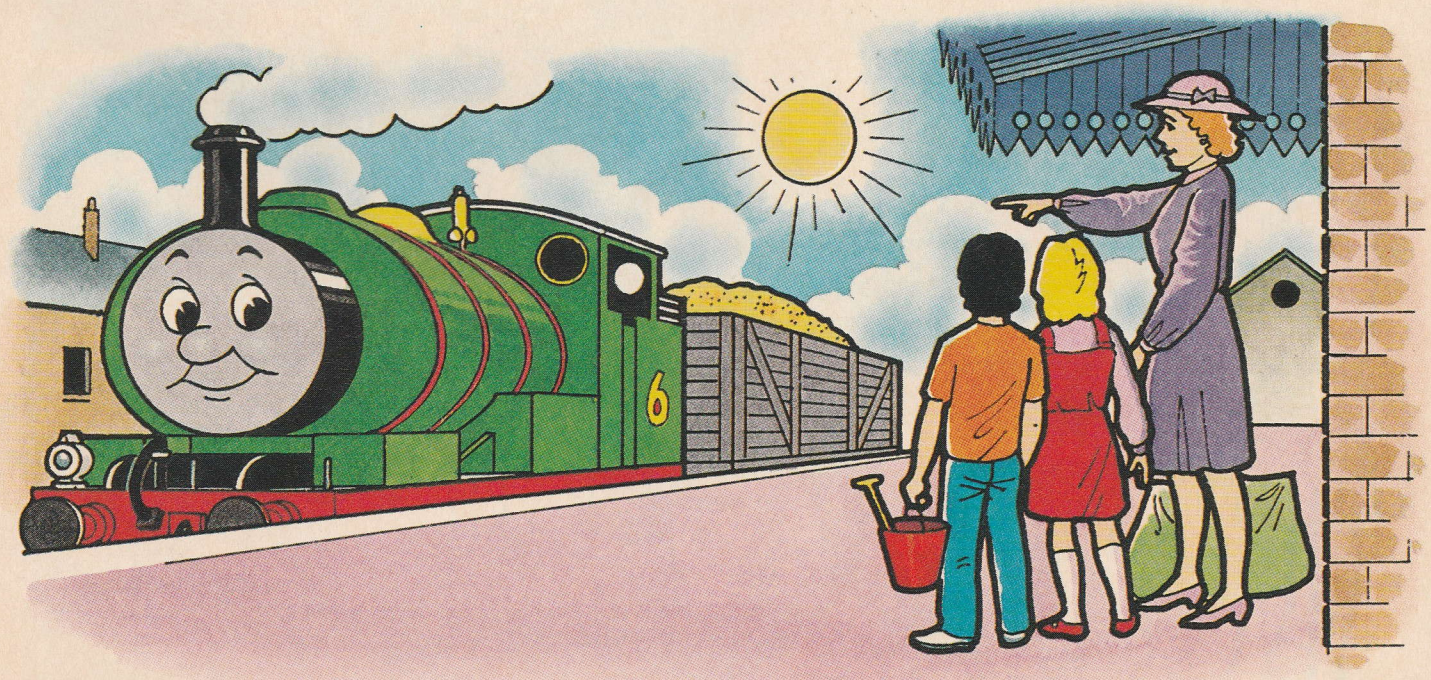

able to build one!"

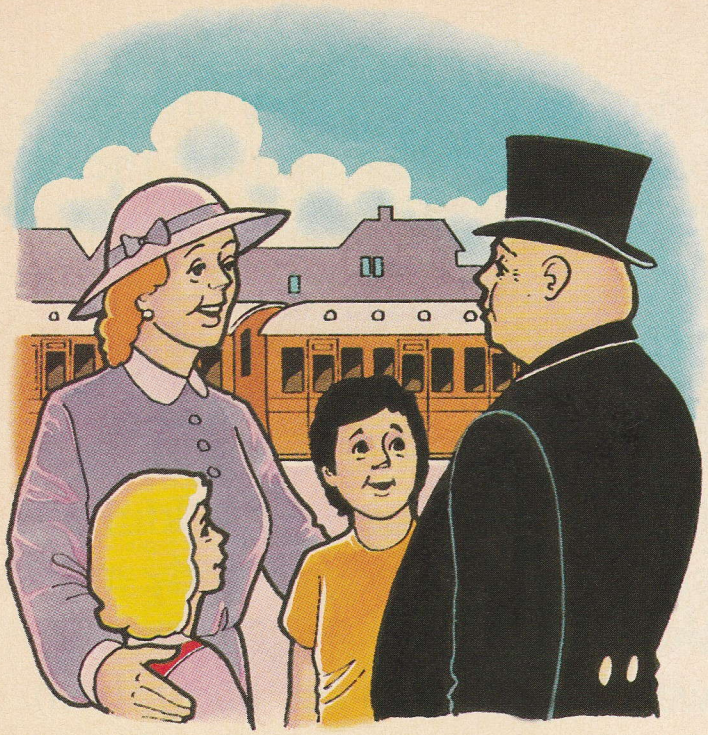
They had almost finished again when the sky turned dark and it began to rain heavily. Lady Hatt hurried them back to the station to shelter from the pouring rain.

As they waited for Thomas to take them home, they all felt quite miserable. "Our sandcastle has been ruined again," Bridget said sadly. When they arrived back at the Main Station, the sun was shining again. "It's too late to return to the beach," said Lady Hatt. "We'll have to go back another day."

The children cheered up as Percy arrived with a truckful of sand. They smiled brightly at their friend. The Fat Controller was surprised to see all of them. "You're home very early," he said. Then Lady Hatt told him about their day.

"Why is Percy carrying all that sand?" asked Stephen as it was being unloaded in the yard. "The sand is used to fill the engine's sand boxes and the station fire buckets," the Fat Controller explained. Suddenly, Lady Hat had an idea. She





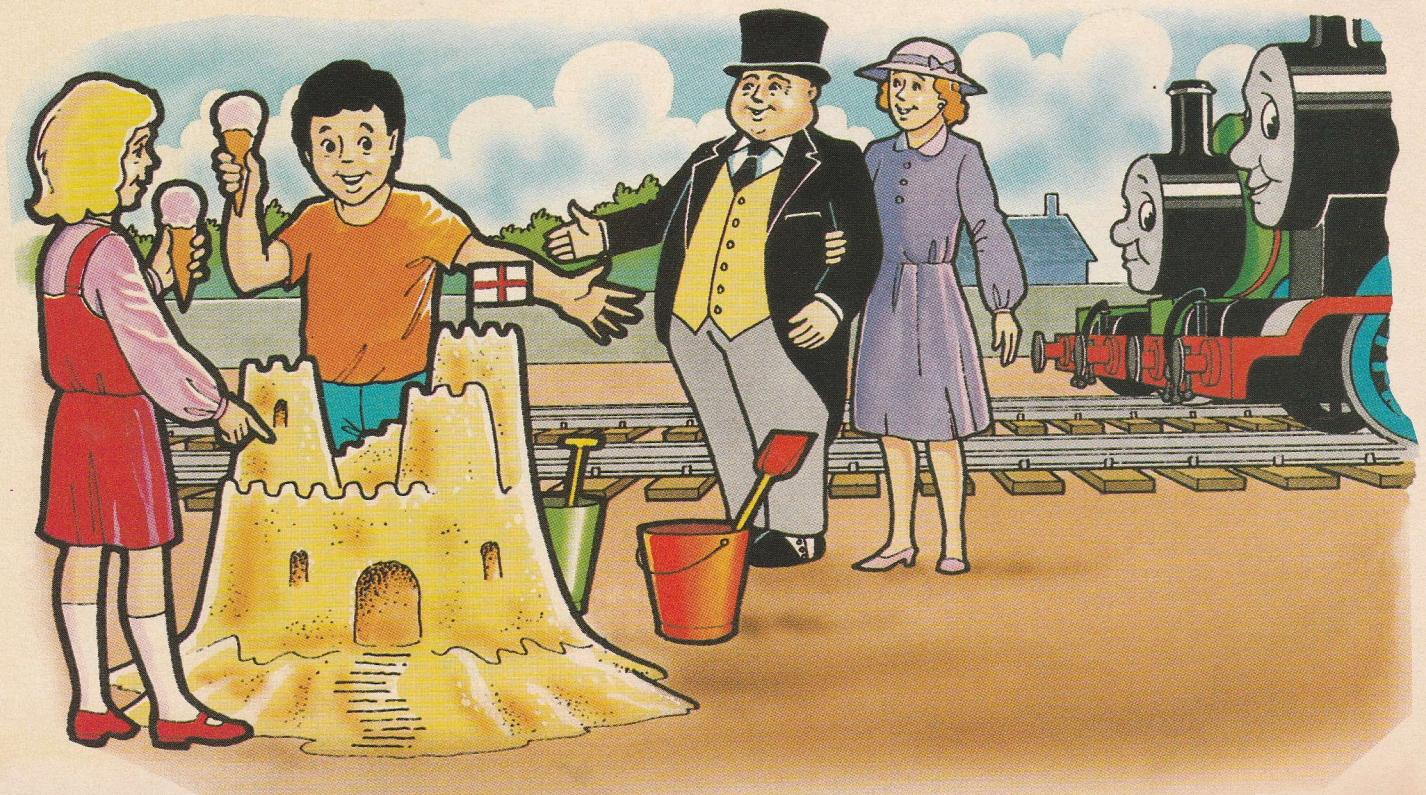
spoke to the Fat Controller. "Why don't Stephen and Bridget build their sandcastle here?" she asked. The Fat Controller thought that it was an excellent idea, "Of course," he said "Now I'll be able to see your splendid sandcastle too!" With that, he asked a guardsman to carry some sand into the yard.

Stephen and Bridget clapped their hands with delight. They could build their beautiful sandcastle right there in the engine yard! And what a sandcastle it was. Thomas had never seen one as large.

"Hooray! We've finished!" the children cried. "What a magnificent sandcastle it is, you both deserve a treat!" said the Fat Controller. Lady Hatt agreed and fetched the children an ice-cream each. Percy smiled. He was happy that he had been so useful in delivering the sand.

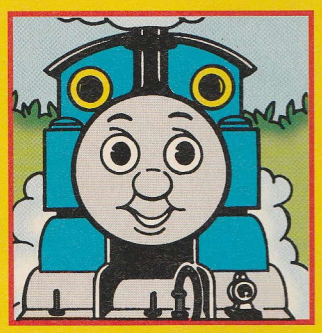
"It's almost like being at the beach," laughed Stephen. "It's better," smiled Bridget. "Our sandcastle is safer here!"

THE END

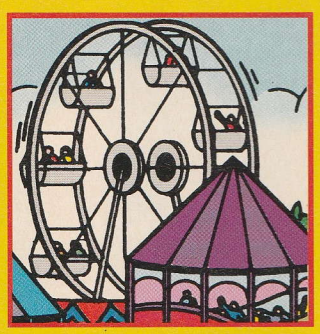


# True or false!

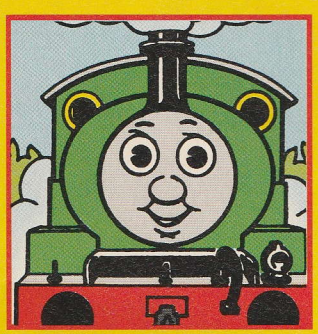
You have just read about Stephen and Bridget's special sandcastle. Can you remember what happened? Answer the 5 questions below by putting a tick in the correct box.



Thomas took Stephen and Bridget to the beach.



They all went to the fair.



Percy arrived with some coal.

Lady Hatt bought some ice-cream.

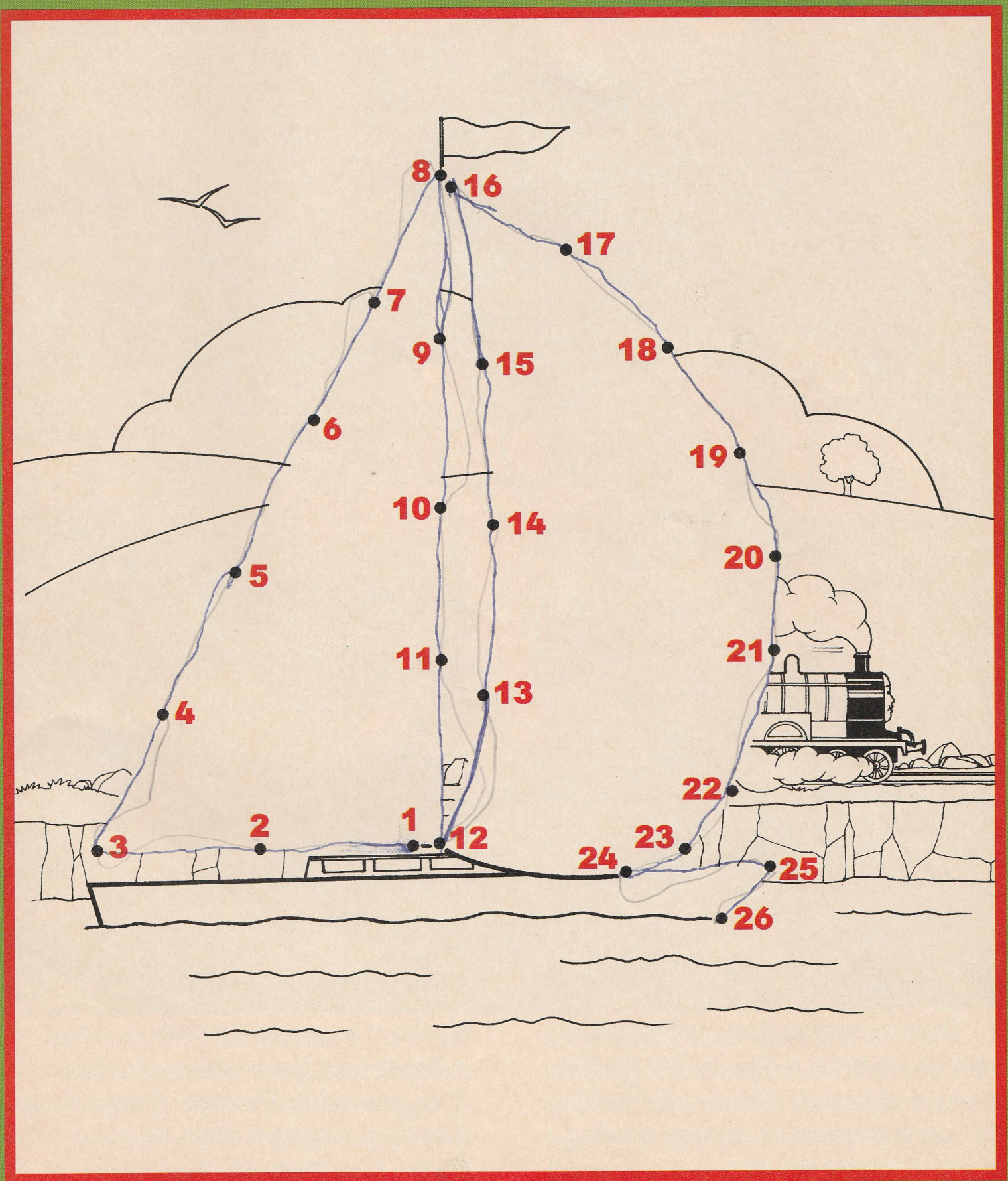
The children built a large sandcastle.

| | True | False |
|---|---|---|
| Thomas took Stephen and Bridget to the beach. | | |
| They all went to the fair. | | |
| Percy arrived with some coal. | | |
| Lady Hatt bought some ice-cream. | | |
| The children built a large sandcastle. | | |

THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Photo album
MAVIS
THE FFARQUHAR QUARRY CO.LTD
MAVIS

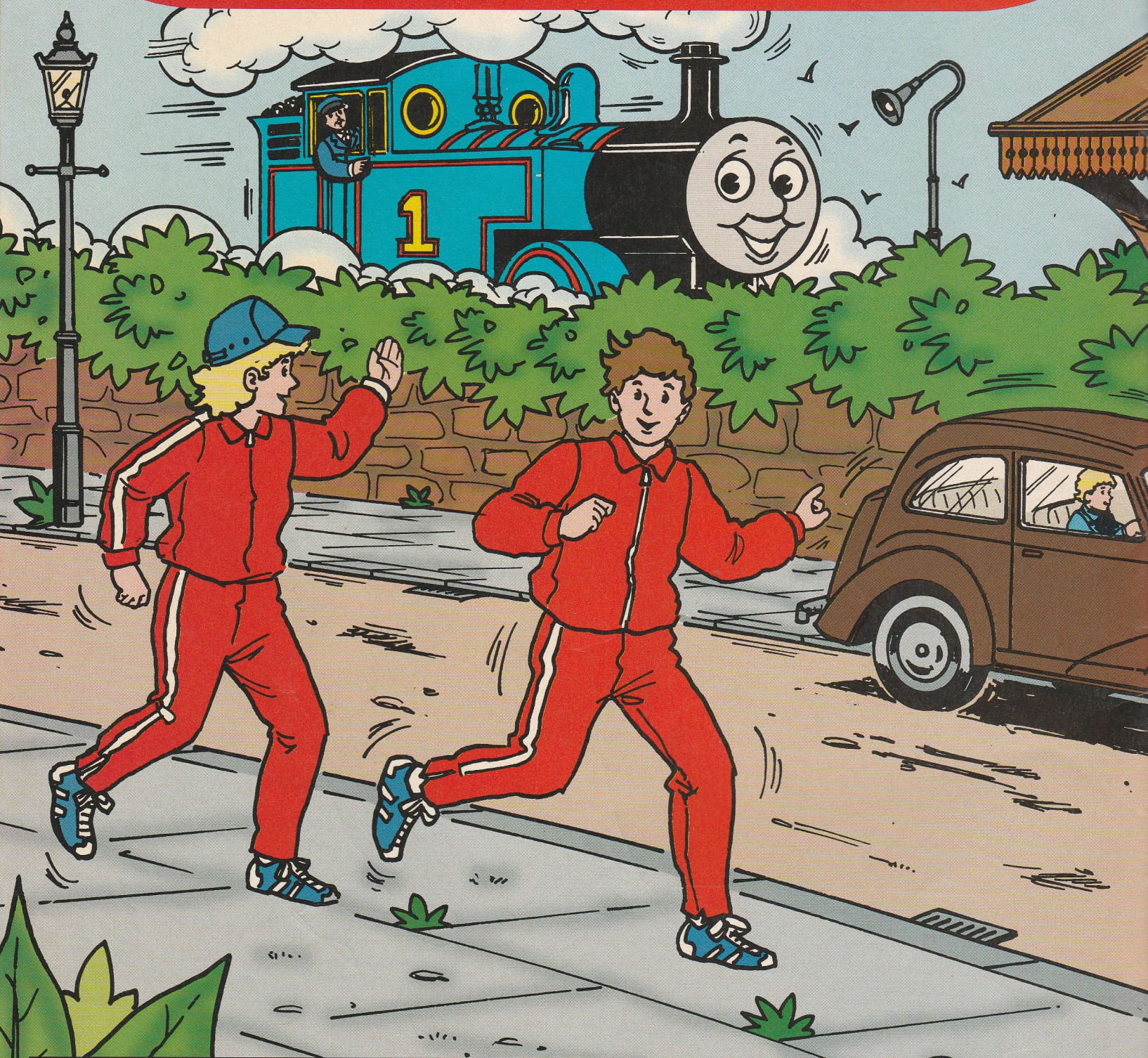
# Dot to dot!

See what Thomas is chuffing past, here's a clue - it has a mast!



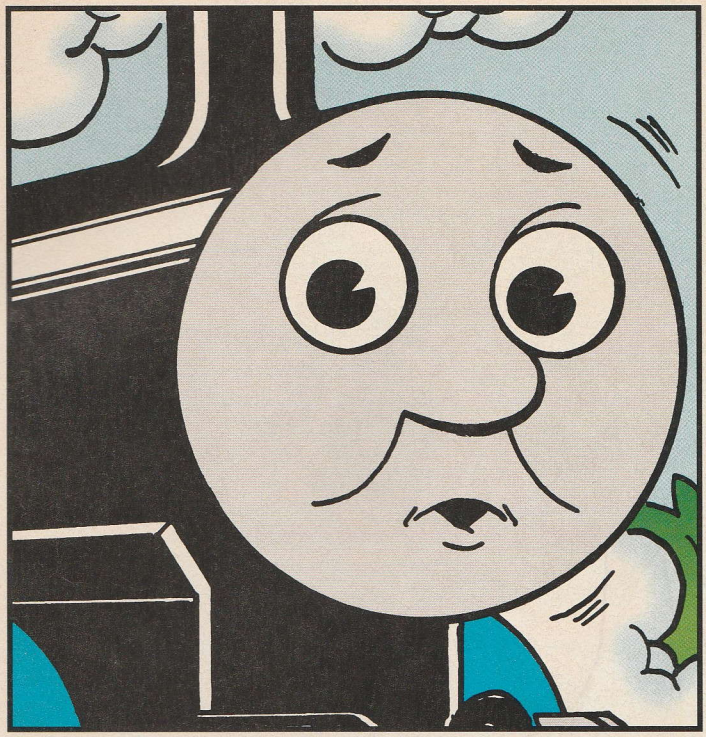

When you have finished colour this page!

# Sporting engine




1. Thomas was pulling a passenger train on his branch line. As he slowed down to approach Wellsworth Station, he saw a man and a woman running along a nearby street.

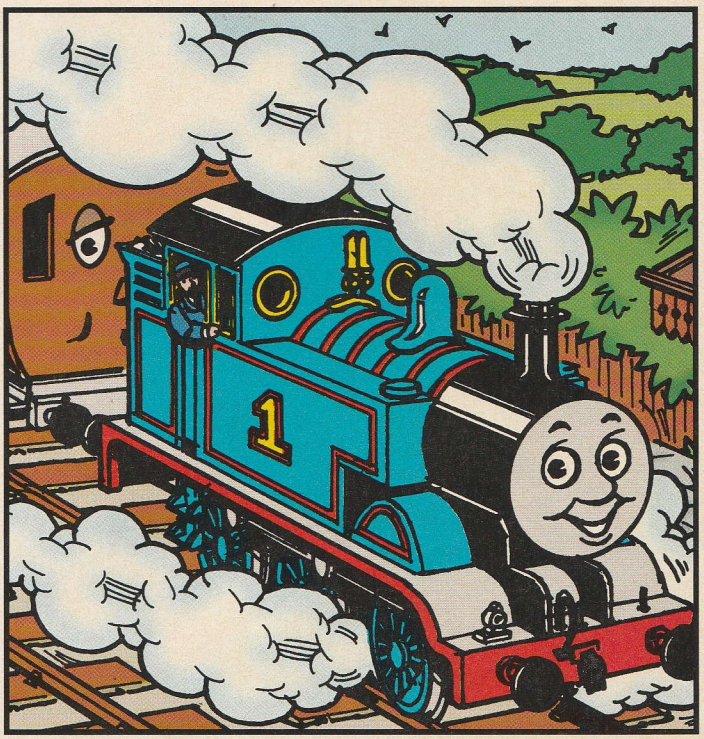
2. For a moment, Thomas and the runners kept pace with each other. They waved to Thomas. "Peep! Peep! Hello" he whistled. Then Thomas puffed past them into the station.



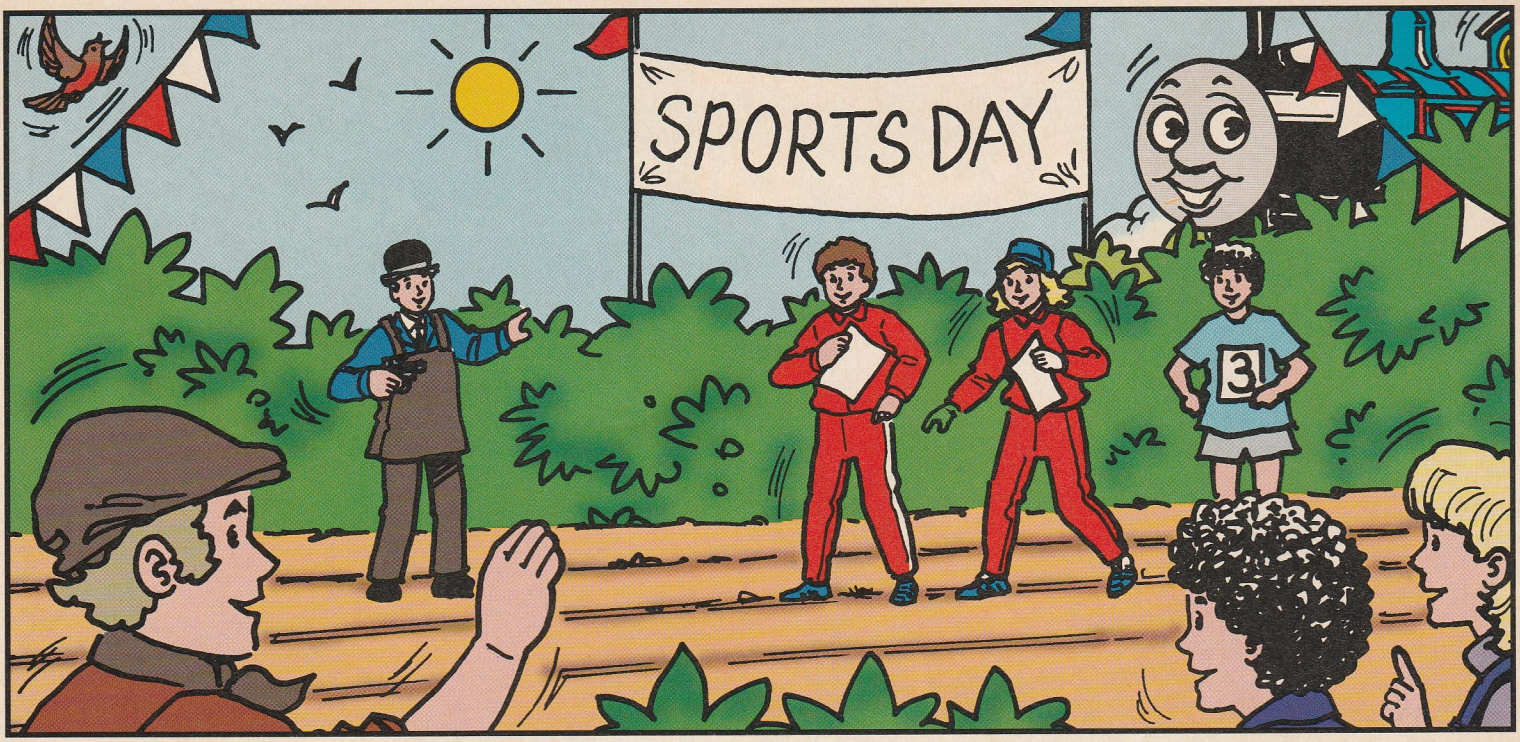
3. "I expect they're running to catch this train," Thomas told his driver while he waited at the platform. But the couple continued past the station. Thomas was a bit confused.

4. "They don't want a ride," said his driver. "Look!" He pointed to a big poster. 'ISLAND OF SODOR SPORTS DAY' it read. "Those runners are training for the sports meeting."

5. Later, as Thomas returned, he saw the runners again. He noticed they were wearing special clothes and running shoes. The man and woman waved to Thomas once more.




6. "Peep! Peep! replied Thomas, cheerily. All week, he kept seeing the two runners. On the weekend, he busily carried lots of passengers to the sports meeting in a large park.




7. The park was close to the station. Soon it was packed with people. There was a special running track for the competitions. "Perhaps I'll see my two friends," thought Thomas.

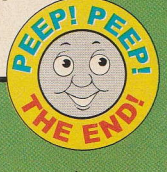
8. He rolled into a siding, beside the park. "The Fat Controller said you must wait here to take everyone home, Thomas," called his driver. "At least we can watch the sports."

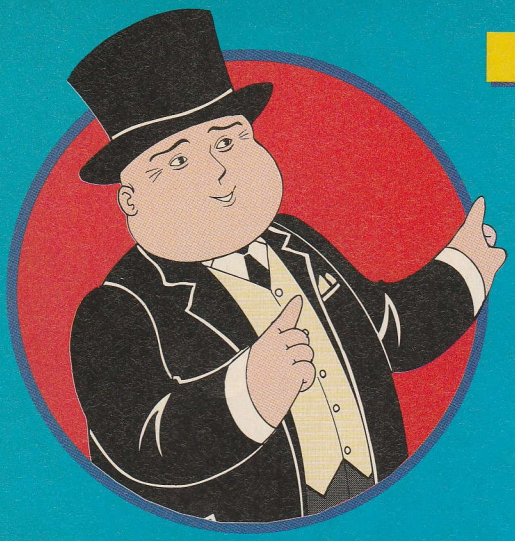
9. "I wish I could join in," Thomas replied. "That would be much more exciting!" Suddenly, he spotted the two runners. They waved as usual. "Peep! Peep! whistled Thomas.

10. The man and woman lined up on the track with other competitors. They waited for the man to begin the race by firing a starter pistol. He kept trying but it would not work.

11. The race was delayed while someone went to fetch a whistle. But they couldn't find one. "I wonder what they'll do?" said Thomas. His friends spoke to the man. They pointed towards Thomas. Then the man hurried over to the driver. In no time, everything was arranged. The competitors lined up again and the man signalled for the race to start, by waving to Thomas.

12. "PHEEEEP!" he whistled. Off went the runners. How the crowd cheered. Thomas started every race. "My steam whistle is very reliable," he said, proudly. "Your two friends had the idea," explained his driver. "Thanks to them, I took part in the sports after all!" said Thomas, later. Now everyone cheered him, too. They thought Thomas was a real sport for being so helpful.





# The m

Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ.

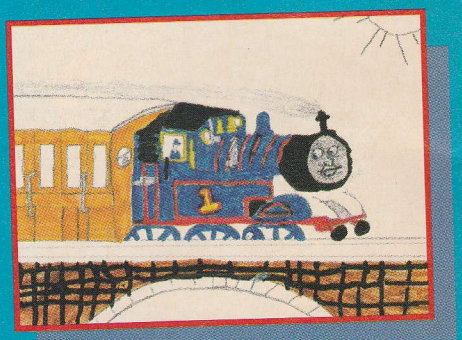
## Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller
Is Thomas a good engine all the time or has he been bad?
**Love from Jack Davidson, aged 7.**

*Thomas can be cheeky sometimes and a little fussy but he is too busy being Really Useful to be naughty!*

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a Thomas remote control model!

**Paul Weller, aged 7, drew this cheerful picture of Thomas!**



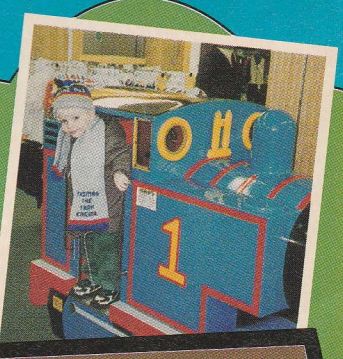
## Prize Poem!

Thank you to 3 year old Bianca Hurren for this delightful rhyme!

I like Percy and Duck
All bright and green.
Bill and Ben are funny and cheeky, I see
Thomas, my favourite
Is the best for me.

## Happy Birthday

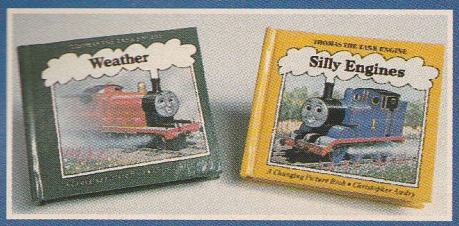
to. . . James Hall, aged 5
Christopher Hunt, aged 10
Scott Hempsall, aged 2
Sam Jones, aged 4
and Danny Dearman aged 3



Olivia Lawrence, 1 year old!

Samuel Cox, aged 2½

# ail train!




Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special **Thomas Changing Picture Book.**

**Peter West, aged 6,** has drawn the Fat Controller looking very smart!

Peter Sam is looking Really Splendid in this picture from **Sam Hawkes, aged 4.**

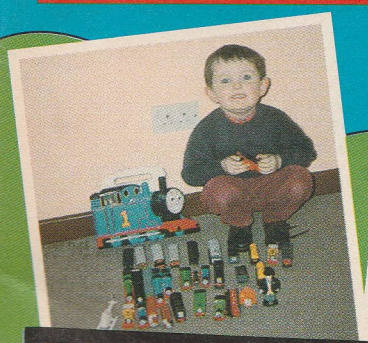
## Percy's Jokes

**Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy!**

What cot is too small to sleep in?
An apricot!
Darren Peterson, aged 4.

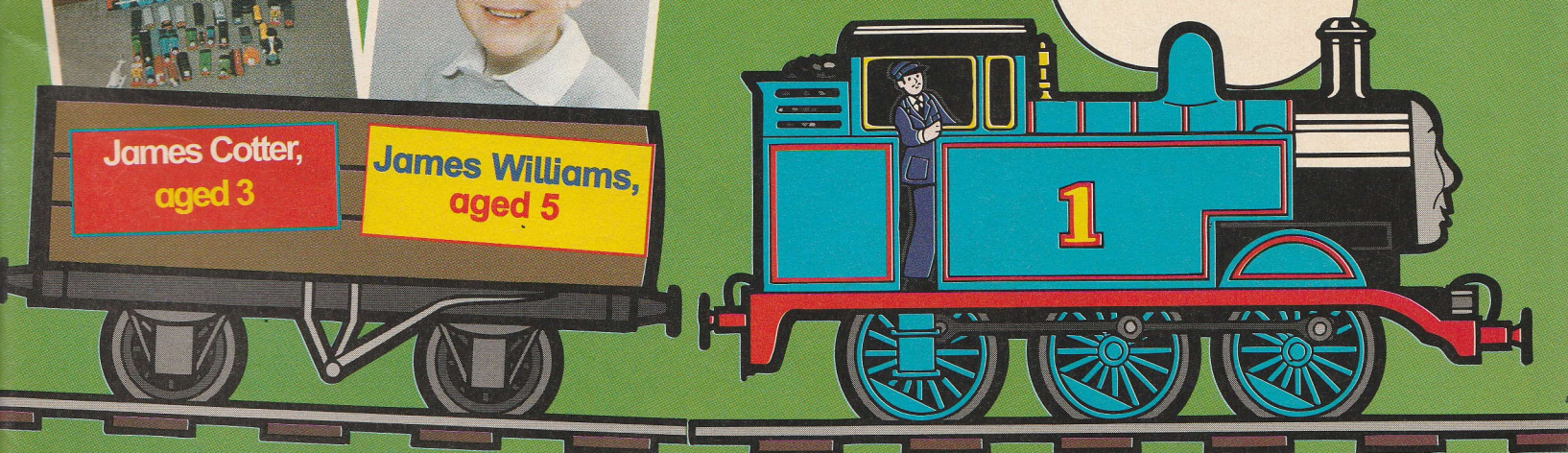
What did one candle say to the other?
I'm going out tonight!
Phil Coxon, aged 5.

What tree can you carry in your hand?
A palm!
Stewart Esposito, aged 5.

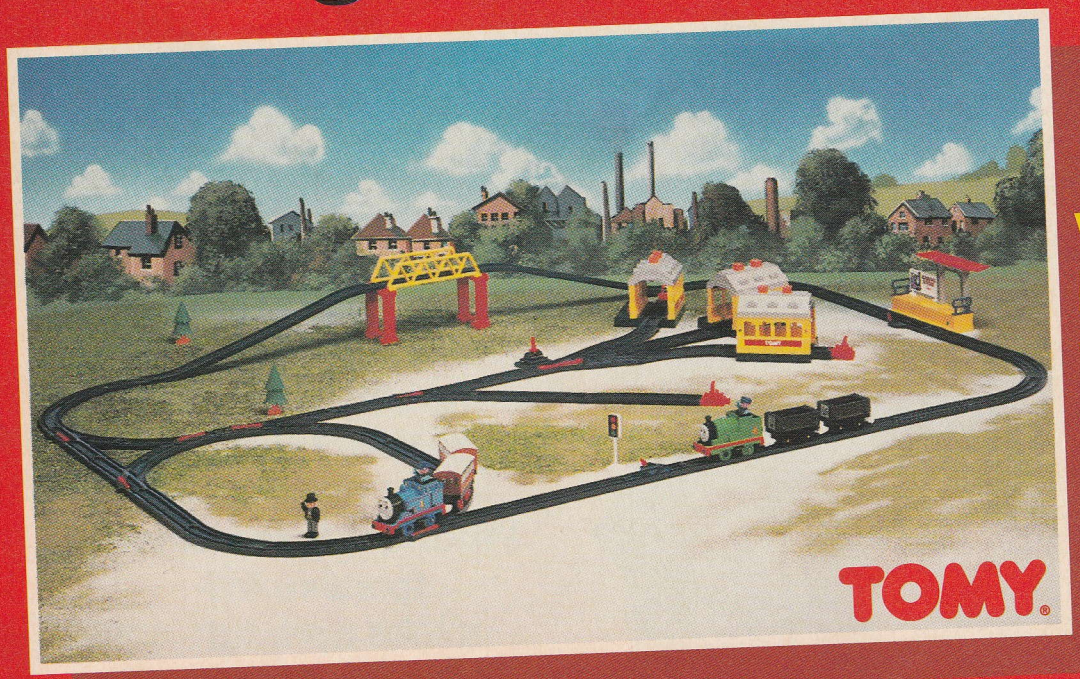


James Cotter, aged 3

James Williams, aged 5



# Join in Thomas and Percy's BIG adventure!




5 lucky Thomas fans can win this brilliant new Train Set from Tomy! Your prize will include Thomas with Annie and Clarabel, Percy and 2 troublesome trucks. There is also your very own station, 3 engine sheds, a bridge and a long tunnel to help you create your own big adventures along your track.

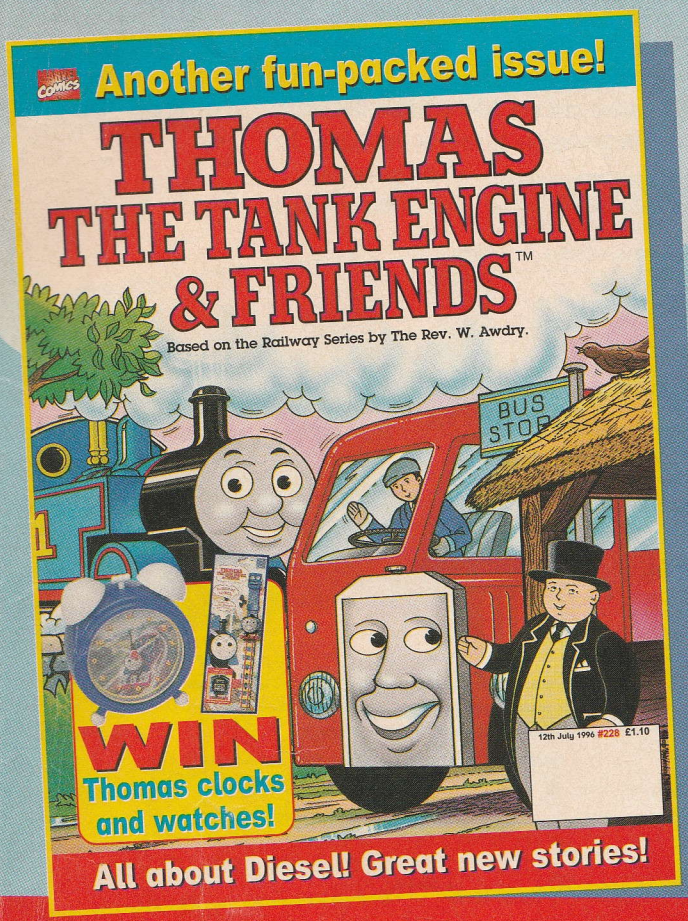
This fabulous prize also comes with a fun story about the adventures of Thomas and Percy. For your chance to win, tell us which engine this little riddle is about:

**He is the grumpy one**
**He's always in a mood**
**Moaning in his oily voice**
**Forever being rude!**

Put your answer on a post card and send to Tomy Competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ. Entries to arrive by 6th July 1996.

This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of participating companies. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final, and no correspondence shall be entered into.

# In issue 228 of . . .




# THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

## Five new stories!

## Thomas prizes to win!

## Puzzles and colouring!

**DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE OF THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS!**

Dear Newsagent,
Please reserve / deliver all future issues of Thomas The Tank Engine and Friends

Name.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Signature of parent / guardian.....

Thank you

# On sale from 29th June 1996!

**Adwell Systems Ltd. have available in stock the latest Thomas The Tank Engine & Friends products for a summertime of fun and enjoyment for every boy and girl.**

**Send for our latest colourful Newsletter. Complete the coupon and post without delay or telephone your Credit/Switch Card order through on 01404 861363.**

| Products | Qty | Price £ |
|---|---|---|
| Playhouse (102x76x102cm) | | 19.99 |
| Rug (56x81cm) | | 14.95 |
| Beach Towel (123x61cm) | | 9.99 |
| Face Flannel (30x30cm) | | 0.99 |
| Torch | | 7.99 |
| Lunch Box and Flask | | 6.99 |
| Flip Top Flask | | 2.25 |
| Backpack | | 5.99 |
| PE/Swim Bag | | 3.99 |
| Shoulder Bag | | 4.99 |
| Kite | | 3.25 |
| *Post & Packing (UK only)* | | |
| Under £10.00 | | 1.50 |
| £10.00 - £25.00 | | 2.99 |
| Over £25.00 | | FREE |
| TOTAL | | |

*Allow up to 28 days for delivery.*

Please make cheques payable to 'Adwell Systems Ltd'. or Debit my Credit/Switch card, Visa, Access, Mastercard (delete as necessary).

Amount: £ Card Number:

Issue Number (if shown): Expiry Date:

Name: Tel. No:

Address

Post Code:

Orders to:
**Adwell Systems Ltd.**
The Old Vicarage ,Yarcombe
Devon EX14 9BD, England
**Fax: 01404 861 591**
**Tel: 01404 861 363**

*Overseas orders welcome*

# THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

## LICENSED CLOTHING

Ideal for presents, these *officially licensed* Thomas the Tank Engine T-shirts and Sweatshirts are made from quality cotton and are *fully machine washable.* We guarantee to deliver your order *free of charge* to your door within 14 days.

FREE DELIVERY

CHILDREN'S TV MERCHANDISING

© BRITT ALLCROFT (THOMAS) LTD 1995
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is a trademark of Britt Allcroft Inc. in the USA, Mexico & Canada & of Britt Allcroft (Thomas) LTD in the rest of the world

| SWEATSHIRTS | |
|---|---|
| NAME | THOMAS HENRY & EDWARD |
| GARMENT | COTTON/POLYESTER |
| STYLE No. | TZ1S |
| AGES | 1-2 3-4 5-6 7-8 |
| COLOURS | WHITE, NAVY |
| PRICE | £9.99 |

| T-SHIRTS | |
|---|---|
| NAME | THOMAS HENRY & EDWARD |
| GARMENT | 100% COTTON |
| STYLE No | TZ1T |
| AGES | 1-2 3-4 5-6 7-8 |
| COLOURS | RED, WHITE, NAVY |
| PRICE | £6.99 |

Send to: *Children's Television Merchandising*, Unit 4, The Palmerston Centre, Oxford Road, Harrow, Middx HA3 7RG
Tel: 0181 863 1112

| Style No | Colour | Size/Age | Item Price £ | Qty | Total Price |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Postage & Packing FREE | | | | | £0.00 |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | | | |

ORDERED BY:

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms: _____

Address: _____

_____

_____

Post Code _____ Tel No: _____

( ) Please send me my order below, plus a free copy of *Children's Television Merchandising* mail order catalogue.
( ) I am not placing an order at present, but please send me a free copy of *Children's Television Merchandising* mail order catalogue.

PAYMENT: I enclose my cheque/postal order payable to: Children's Television Merchandising Ltd for:

£ _____ ACCESS VISA MasterCard DELTA

OR PLEASE DEBIT MY ACCESS/VISA/MASTERCARD/DELTA (PLEASE CIRCLE CHOICE)

Card No: _____

Expiry Date: _____ Signature: _____

# 13 issues for the price of 12!

## When you subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends!

**Subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for 6 months (12 issues) and receive the 13th issue absolutely FREE!**

I wish to subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for 6 months (12 Issues & 13th issue **FREE**) for £17.00 (£27.00 overseas). Prices include postage and packaging.

Child's name ..... Address .....

.....

..... Post code ..... Date of birth.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to Panini UK Ltd.
Please charge £..... to my Visa/Mastercard or call Credit card hotline on 01858 410510.

Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date .....

Card holder's signature .....

Parent's/donor's name: Mr/Mrs/Ms ..... Address (if different from child's)

.....

.....Post code .....

**Please send to: Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 503, Leicester, LE99 0AD.**

On occasion, we may permit other reputable companies to make offers of products or services to our customers. Please tick here if you wold prefer not to receive details of any special offers or new products. ☐